

## National NPS Meeting in Park City A Big Success

The State of Utah and EPA Region 8 hosted the National Nonpoint Source Coordinators' Meeting in Park City June 19-22, 2006. State and EPA NPS Coordinators from throughout the country gathered to discuss issues facing watershed managers at the national, state and local levels. The meeting attracted 169 participants from 40 states, and ten EPA regions and EPA Headquarters.

Many of the major issues facing Section 319 and Coastal NPS managers were addressed during the four days. Along with outlining problems, managers were able to identify and discuss potential solutions to improve water quality and documents successes from NPS implementation efforts. Discussions focused on watershed planning, load-reduction modeling, and effectiveness monitoring. Additional information was provided through a series of technical and programmatic presentations and two special-topic workshops.

A Pre-meeting workshop was held to assist state and EPA on approaches to watershed planning. EPA's new Watershed Planning Handbook was discussed in detail during this



interactive workshop. The session taught participants how to develop and implement a watershed plan using all nine elements.

Participants also learned about new tools being developed and reviewed successful case studies. You may download a copy of EPA's new Watershed Planning Handbook at

[http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/watershed\\_handbook](http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/watershed_handbook)

At the meeting, state agencies brought posters that illustrated watershed restoration success stories. The posters highlighted how the integration of a state water program through the watershed planning process is important to achieving water quality improvements. A contest was held to determine the best poster presentation. The winning poster, submitted by the State of Virginia, was about the Shenandoah Valley watershed project.

Pete Nowak, University of Wisconsin-Madison, gave a well-received presentation entitled "People, Science, and the Next Generation of Water Quality Policy." His objective was to illustrate how we need to rigorously, and in a scientifically valid fashion, incorporate the

“human dimension” into existing policies, knowledge and methods to address water-quality degradation from agricultural sources.

Another highlight of the meeting was a local watershed tour in and near the host city of Park City. The East Canyon Creek Watershed drains much of the greater Park City area. Because the East Canyon Watershed Committee is still in the early stages of restoration efforts within the watershed, meeting organizers thought it would be interesting for participants to see watershed projects in progress, rather than look at successful completed projects, as is usually the case.

Participants saw work being done by the homeowners’ association at Silver Springs Lake, by the Swaner Nature preserve and at the Snyderville Basin Waste Water treatment plant. The tour concluded at the Utah Olympic Park with a discussion of watershed protection practices that went into building the ski-jumping, luge and bobsled venue for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games.



The final session was a post conference workshop hosted by the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, Tetra Tech and EPA: Getting in Step with Using Social Marketing in Your Watershed Outreach Campaign. More information about that session is available at [http://ag.utah.gov/conservation/nps\\_GettingInStep.html](http://ag.utah.gov/conservation/nps_GettingInStep.html).